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Signature: Rebecca Baumgard



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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. NTI-020

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
Inventor(s): J. Tracy Weed et al.)	
Application No.: 09/752,809)	Art Unit: 2812
Filed: 12/27/2000)	Examiner: unknown
Title "MANUFACTURING INTEGRATED CIRCUITS")	
)	
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed below or on an attached Form PTO-1449 is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication and U.S. and foreign patent, except for pending U.S. applications, is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. If form PTO-1449 is enclosed, the Examiner is requested to initial and return it in accordance with MPEP § 609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

- This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)
-- OR --
 - (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage.
-- OR --
 - (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits.
-- OR --
 - (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is provided below; or
 - a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(c), but on or before payment of the issue fee, then:
- A. a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is completed below; and
 - B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- Fee Authorization.* The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0574 (Docket No. NTI-020).

Respectfully submitted,

BEVER, HOFFMAN & HARMS, LLP

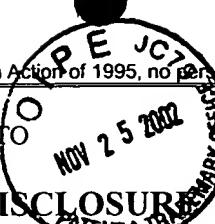
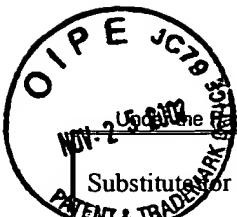
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~~Substitute for form 1449A/PTO~~

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1 Attorney Docket Number

09/752,809

12/27/2000

J. Tracy Weed

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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EXAMINER _____ **DATE CONSIDERED** _____
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language